

## ABSTRACT

### NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCING

A method for determining a target nucleic acid sequence, wherein the target nucleic acid sequence is comprised in a preparation comprising a non-target nucleic acid sequence, the target nucleic acid sequence and the non-target nucleic acid sequence each having a first region of common sequence upstream of a first region of dissimilar sequence upstream of a second region of dissimilar sequence, the method comprising:

- (a) contacting the preparation with a blocking oligonucleotide complementary to at least a portion of the first region of dissimilar sequence of the non-target nucleic acid sequence, under conditions to hybridise the blocking oligonucleotide thereto;
- (b) contacting the preparation with a sequencing primer complementary to at least a portion of the first region of common sequence, under conditions to hybridise the primer to the target nucleic acid sequence; and
- (c) subjecting the preparation to a sequencing reaction, such that the sequencing reaction proceeds into the second region of dissimilar sequence of the target nucleic acid sequence, thereby determining at least the second region of dissimilar sequence of the target nucleic acid sequence;

and wherein the blocking oligonucleotide blocks the sequencing reaction at least from proceeding into the second region of dissimilar sequence of the non-target nucleic acid sequence.